

that the engine-driver was an Englishman,
and recognised
them they wrote long descriptive accounts for
The Crusade

In determining to go on this journey, they
expressed,
plainly enough, their recognition of what,
under all the
apparent glow of success and achievement,
was really
happening They knew, despite the great
publicity they
had organised, and the imposing public
sentiment they had
got ranged behind them, that the agitation
was, in fact, at
a dead-end It still looked very powerful but it
had come
up against forces too strong for it Political
forces They
were not tilting at one specific grievance, such
as could be
removed, if public opinion demanded it, by a
simple act
Their programme was essentially a large scale
constructive
one, it could only be realised through
legislation, and
legislation of a comprehensive and far reaching
character
Such legislation could only issue from a
Government

True, they had, within the first six months
of the
campaign, not only got a parliamentary
Bill drafted
by a rising young Socialist barrister, Mr H H
Slessor,
but had secured its Second Reading debate
That debate,
however, although *The Crusade* did its best to
be cheerful
about it, was of a profoundly discouraging
character, from
the point of view of Governmental action
True, the
Prime Minister, Mr Asquith, and the Leader
of the
Opposition, Mr Balfour, both spoke* and Mr
Balfour, in
the freedom of Opposition, showed "a real
comprehension
of the essential features of the problem "

More significant
is the comment on Mr Asquith's remarks "Mr
Asquith
was hampered by the fact that he had the
President of the
Local Government Board (Mr John Burns)
seated beside
him " In the Liberal Government, the key
man, from
their point of view, was John Burns and John
Burns'
hostility had never been concealed Had not
Mrs Webb,
on the Commission, faced a "head-on collision"
with him,
from the start? She had had her fun. he, now,
was having